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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 006248

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TAGS: [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: U/S JOSEPH DISCUSSES NONPROLIFERATION IN TURKEY,
SEPT 29-30

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney, reason
1.4 b/d.

1. (S) Summary: Under Secretary Joseph urged Turkey to take a resolute stand on Iran's nuclear weapons program during his September 29-30 visit to Ankara. Finance Minister Unakitan pledged to work with the United States to address proliferation financing and requested additional information on companies identified as proliferators under E.O. 13382 so MOF could determine what action might be taken against them. He secured agreement from the Turkish General Staff to invite Central Asian observers to the PSI exercise Turkey will host in May 2006, and from the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK) to permit U.S. experts to test a sample of uranium powder seized in a sting operation in Istanbul last month. State Minister for Customs and Foreign Trade Tuzmen informed U/S Joseph of plans to reform Turkey's free zones. End Summary.

2. (U) During his Sept. 29-30 visit to Turkey, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Robert

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Joseph met with Turkey's Finance Minister Kemal Unakitan, Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff Isik Kosaner, State Minister for Customs and Foreign Trade Kursad Tuzmen and the President of the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK) Okay Cakiroglu. The Charge also hosted a dinner for U/S Joseph that was attended by Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials: Deputy Undersecretary Nabi Sensoy, Acting Director General for Multilateral Affairs Fatih Ceylan and Deputy Director General for Arms Control Bulent Meric.

Iran

3. (C) U/S Joseph led open and frank discussions during each of his meetings about the problems that could occur should Iran's nuclear weapons program continue to develop. U/S Joseph noted that the IAEA board of governors recently found Iran in violations of its obligations under the NPT. All of U/S Joseph's interlocutors asserted that Turkey has been a strong supporter of the EU-3, and believe that diplomacy needs to be given a chance. Turkey exists in a very "tough neighborhood" and needs to find ways to get along with its neighbors. At the same time, both Kosaner and Sensoy noted that the Iran's nuclear program is a danger and that they do not want another nuclear-armed country in this region. However, they also cautioned that actions against Iran should be undertaken so as not to cause Iran to feel threatened. An insecure Iran might lash out and not only develop nuclear weapons but also use them. Should this occur, Turkey could easily be a target.

Executive Order 13382

4. (C) U/S Joseph highlighted in meetings with Finance Minister Unakitan, MFA officials and State Minister Tuzmen the importance of using financial mechanisms as a new tool in the fight against proliferators. As almost all individuals who participate in proliferation have some type of profit motive, taking away or freezing assets can greatly reduce the temptation to participate in these types of activities.

5. (C) Unakitan replied that Turkey does its best to combat proliferators and those individuals that finance these activities. He recommended that the US and Turkey establish a network, likely through the Turkish FIU, to ensure his office has the required information. He had not seen the US Executive Order and did not know whether any of the companies listed were actually operating within Turkey. He asked for the US to provide any information the US had on operations by these entities in Turkey so that action could be taken. U/S Joseph agreed the US should get back to him with this information.

6. (C) Meric stated during the dinner meeting his belief that if sufficient information is exchanged concerning companies or individuals that are engaged in or profiting from proliferation, Turkey has sufficient laws within its new penal code to take action against them. Sharing of intelligence is the key to decreasing the financial attraction of proliferation. It will also allow all countries involved to take action against these companies

sooner and more effectively.

Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

17. (C) U/S Joseph noted in each meeting that PSI is an important tool in the effort to catch current proliferators and is a deterrent to future proliferators, and that Turkey's active participation in PSI efforts greatly enhances the initiative. U/S Joseph recalled Turkey's long desire to be part of the PSI Core Group, and informed both Kosaner and Sensoy that the Core Group had been dissolved. U/S Joseph congratulated TGS on the planning of the May 2006 comprehensive air, land and maritime exercise Turkey will host (Anatolian Deer).

18. (C) Kosaner noted that Turkey has long been a participant in the fight against proliferation and that PSI is a good tool to continue this fight. Kosaner stated that cooperation and the sharing of intelligence is very important in this effort and is the key for any major success.

19. (C) TGS Deputy J5 for Arms Control BG Erinmezler provided an overview of the upcoming PSI exercise. He said it will be divided into two parts with the command post exercise taking place in Ankara and the live exercise portion taking place in the Antalya area. Turkey has received pledges of exercise support from France, Portugal and the United States. Turkey is considering inviting non-PSI nations to observe the exercise in hopes of gaining their support for the initiative. U/S Joseph encouraged TGS to consider including the Central Asians as observers. Kosaner agreed.

Free Zones

10. (C) Tuzmen informed U/S Joseph that Turkey is in the process of reforming its free zones, improving the organization and the controls that exist within the zones. The free zones in Turkey are currently in compliance with EU standards. Tuzmen stated that a shipment's documentation into and out of the zones should be checked twice, once on their way in and again when they are shipped out. However, the high volume of container cargo that moves through Turkey makes it very difficult to visually inspect every shipment. Tuzmen believed that zones should not be blamed because they are abused by criminals, but the criminals themselves were the problem. He also encouraged the US to focus on all free zones, not just in Turkey, in order to ensure that countries imposing reforms are not harmed economically.

Uranium Powder Seized in Istanbul

11. (S) U/S Joseph informed TAEK President Okay Cakiroglu of the U.S.'s desire to participate in joint forensic testing of the uranium powder that was seized in a police sting operation in Istanbul on Aug. 18. Cakiroglu stated that Turkey has followed all steps to properly report to IAEA and protect the uranium powder that was seized. TAEK Agreed to provide U.S. experts with a sample of the powder for additional testing as long as it is done in compliance with all IAEA procedures.

12. (C) Cakiroglu was not aware of what Turkish enforcement actions have been taken against the individuals that were attempting to sell the powder and recommended that U.S. officials contact the Turkish National Police for this type of information.

Cooperation with Iraqi Nuclear Authority

13. (C) U/S Joseph thanked TAEK for their willingness to assist in the development and improvement of the Iraqi Nuclear Authority. Cakiroglu briefed the U/S on his visit to IAEA earlier in the week where he had spoken to Iraqi officials and reiterated his offer to provide assistance in the forms of training, information exchanges or even equipment. He indicated that this assistance could assist in internal Iraqi efforts to decrease the amount of radioactive material and orphan sources that approach the Turkish border from Iraq.

Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

14. (U) Cakiroglu informed U/S Joseph of Turkey's desire to have U.S. companies participate in Turkish nuclear energy development. He was specifically impressed with the products and pricing Westinghouse was reportedly able to offer, and wanted to have them participate in nuclear energy development in Turkey. U/S Joseph stated that he was aware of the hold-up with the Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and noted that it must be

approved by the U.S. Congress to allow U.S. companies to participate in the Turkish market. He hoped it would move forward to Congress soon following promised progress on nonproliferation efforts. The meetings U/S Joseph had during his visit would help him build support for the Agreement with Congress, he said.

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